

[Chairman: Mr. Bogle]

[5:57 p.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, ladies and gentlemen, it's a privilege to call the first meeting of our Select Special Committee on Electoral Boundaries to order. I'm very pleased that the makeup of the committee is as it is. We have an excellent blend of representation from our two metropolitan cities; from Red Deer, right in the middle; and rural Alberta, both north and south. So from a geographic mix and a political/philosophical mix I think that there are going to be some interesting dynamics in this committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally introduce you to Bob Pritchard. I know you've met him individually. Bob is with the Department of Family and Social Services. He's currently the acting executive director of services to persons with disabilities. He will be working with us as the senior administrator for the duration of the life of our committee. In addition, we'll have a secretary attached to Bob, and I don't know how much progress we've made yet in that area.

MR. PRITCHARD: Well, it will be Karen Hudson.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It will? Oh, good. Well, that's excellent then.

The location of the office will be on the fourth floor of the Legislature Annex building. There are two offices side by side, the second of which is large enough to accommodate a small table so that we can have our meetings there, as long we're not meeting a delegation. So that'll be a place where we can all go to hang our hats and go from there. The office number, Bob; do we have a phone number yet?

MR. PRITCHARD: It's 403, and I don't have the phone number yet.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Yeah, because we wanted to get on with some stationery so that we can get on with our job.

The primary purpose of today's meeting is to get everyone together so that we can block out some time on our respective calendars. I know that you're just as anxious to spend a bit of time, whether it's with your spouse and loved ones or constituents or all of the above, as I am. But we've all been tied up in the Assembly for a summer, and we do have other things we want to do. It's also important that we identify times that we will be able to reserve for our committee work.

There is another matter in addition to the blocking out of time that I think is of critical importance, and it's a procedural matter. If we follow the normal rules as outlined in *Beauchesne*, then the chairman of the committee would not vote unless there was a tie. We have a unique situation in the committee where we have four government members, we have two members from the Official Opposition, and we have one Liberal. It's important that we decide how we're going to conduct our business, if we're going to follow the rules of *Beauchesne*, or if you choose to see those rules amended so that the chairman votes on issues and then a tied vote is a lost vote. That's another consideration. But what I'd like to put out for consideration, so that you can think about it now and then towards the end of the meeting we come back and address the issue in a more formal way, is the suggestion that we can as a committee discuss matters with a quorum, but unless all members are present, we would not bring a matter to a vote. So think about the two options. That's the

one, and in that event the chairman would continue to stay in a passive role and not vote unless there was a tie, or if you'd rather abandon that process, then go to one which would see the chairman voting on all issues, recognizing that if there is a tie, it's a lost vote. So rather than talking about it now, I want to give you time to think about it because I have not discussed that with any other members of the committee, including those from my own party.

I suggest we go right to our calendars and look at blocking out some time. I've discussed with I believe all of you on an informal basis the idea that we should try to set up our meetings where we've blocked out parts of three days. For instance, let's say that we're going to get together on a Wednesday; we would not start that meeting until early afternoon. That gives members a chance to come into the city. In Stock's case, because he attends all cabinet meetings as the Whip of our caucus, it's important that we take that time into account as well. But I'm using this just as an example of how we might proceed. If we begin on our first date and have a half-day meeting and it's in the afternoon of the day, then set aside much of the next day for a meeting, and then the third day meet primarily in the morning, so that when we break, members again can depart for their constituencies or get back to other constituency work here in Edmonton. As we move along, we will get into the process where we're holding hearings and where groups will have an opportunity to take briefs to us. If we can follow that three-day regimen, that gives us one or possibly two evenings every time we meet when we can hold such meetings.

The other thought was that as we're entering into the colder part of the year, we should try very hard to hold meetings in the more sparsely populated, more isolated parts of the province while the weather is favourable, saving the meetings that are in and very close to the metropolitan centres for the coldest months of the year. So while I didn't intend that we'd get into that tonight, I just mention that for information so you can be thinking about it. In that sense we would not be having all of our meetings here in Edmonton. We'd be having some in Calgary. We would in all likelihood be meeting in Red Deer, and we can use that as a base for meetings in central Alberta, meeting in Lethbridge and/or Medicine Hat, possibly in Grande Prairie or Fort McMurray. So there's a lot of options that we can consider in those matters.

Has everyone got their calendar with them? All right. Then let's . . . It was my hope that we could buy a little bit of time by getting ourselves organized, so Bob can get the office set up and established and we can move on with our secretarial help and get our stationery prepared. So I was proposing we not come back for the next meeting of the committee until the week of September 18.

MS BARRETT: Oh, good. You always choose the ones that I say booked off, don't you. He looks in my calendar first and then does this.

MR. CARDINAL: There goes your holiday.

MS BARRETT: Yeah.

MR. DAY: He stole your diary when you weren't looking.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you got another suggestion?

MS BARRETT: No. It's okay. Go ahead. I'd be in town anyway, so it doesn't matter.

MRS. BLACK: Mr. Chairman, what days are you talking about?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I was just trying to find a week to start with and then see if we could narrow it down to two days.

MRS. BLACK: You mean as a whole week?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. It was mentioned two half-days and one full day.

MS BARRETT: If I could just make note that I've been booked in for a long time for an official opening at 5 o'clock on the 18th. It takes about an hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

Stock, you and I haven't really discussed cabinet days and how we'd try to work around those. If we're looking at two half-days and a full day, then a cabinet day falling right in the middle of the week, I sure don't propose that this committee be meeting on Saturdays or Sundays.

MR DAY: Agreed.

MRS. BLACK: No problem here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So far, no palace revolt.

MS BARRETT: We can start on Wednesday afternoons, right?

MR. DAY: It usually extends in the afternoon too.

MS BARRETT: Till what time?

MR. DAY: It's scheduled for 5:30 each day, but sometimes it's 4; sometimes it's 3:30.

MS BARRETT: Oh, I see. So that wipes out the whole day for you.

MR. DAY: For me it does.

MR. CARDINAL: Thursday and Friday.

MR. BRUSEKER: Our caucus usually meets on Wednesdays as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A full day?

MR. BRUSEKER: Typically it usually starts around 11 and goes till 4.

MR. SIGURDSON: What we ought to do is perhaps consider how we're going to decide motions that come before the committee before we start looking at days for it. We seem to be getting into conflict straight away. Maybe now would be an appropriate time to discuss whether or not the chairman's going to be voting or whether or not we'll have discussions during quorum but not having the vote until everybody's present, so that we can

clear up our calendars.

MS BARRETT: Yeah. I think you're right. You can go to that decision now, can't you?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm comfortable if members are. I wanted to give everyone a chance to think about it rather than springing it and saying, "Let's decide now." Any thoughts on the question of our procedure?

MS BARRETT: I have one.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Go ahead, Pam.

MS BARRETT: I believe that committees of the Assembly can work in a nonpartisan fashion. I've seen it done on a number of occasions, and I've actually been involved on a few occasions. One of the things I would recommend to encourage that is that we have even numbers for voting, and that would mean then, Bob, that I'd be recommending that you abstain from voting unless it's a tie vote. It doesn't mean that you don't have a say. But I'll tell you, it means that we would end up necessarily working towards a consensus, and that to me is a good idea. I mean, in the real long haul this is not going to be easy, but the job that we've got compared to the next committee's job is nothing. So the more we can work on consensus the better.

MR. CARDINAL: It's good as long as we're moving forward in a common direction. If we're in conflict, then it's not good.

MS BARRETT: I understand, but that's why you have the Chair, who can then break a tie.

MR. DAY: I'd support what Pam's saying. If we all want to do the job and get the job done -- and that to me would expedite the process -- go about it that way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Could we then have a formal motion that would establish our rules so that while matters may be discussed with a quorum present, no matter will be brought to a vote unless all members of the committee are present?

MS BARRETT: I'll move that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Any further questions? All in favour? Opposed? It's carried unanimously. Can the record show that, please? Good.

Well, now let's go back to the agenda. If we try with our first meeting -- I hate shifting into late afternoon, early evening for those who have families here. Who has a family here?

MRS. BLACK: Oh, I have a family.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah, but here?

MRS. BLACK: Not here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can we try to have our first meeting, like the Wednesday meeting, begin at 4 o'clock?

MR. SIGURDSON: Sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With the idea that we'd have a working supper meeting like this and run probably until 7.

MR. CARDINAL: And then go on to Thursday?

MR. CHAIRMAN: And then go on and plan out a full day on Thursday.

MR. CARDINAL: Set aside Friday also?

MR. CHAIRMAN: By a full day I think of starting at 10 o'clock, giving each of us a chance to go to our offices and clear away phone messages and do things like that and then start at about 10.

MRS. BLACK: On the Thursday?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We'll leave open how long we go on the Thursday.

MR. CARDINAL: Then we set aside Friday also?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then set aside Friday morning with the idea that we'd shut it down about 1 o'clock.

MR. CARDINAL: I had a meeting Wednesday night, but it's going to go out; otherwise, we'll never arrive at a date.

MRS. BLACK: So the first one would be Wednesday the 20th?

MR. CHAIRMAN: So the first one would be Wednesday the 20th starting at 4 p.m.

MS BARRETT: And that will be in Edmonton?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. SIGURDSON: Fourth floor of the annex?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we'll be ready then.

MR. PRITCHARD: It should be ready then, yes.

MR. CARDINAL: Okay, that's the 20th at 4 p.m.

MS BARRETT: Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And starting at 10 a.m. on Thursday morning. Is 10 o'clock on the Friday also satisfactory? All right.

MR. CARDINAL: Sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And we'll plan to be finished . . .

MRS. BLACK: Ten till?

MS BARRETT: Target till 1, just like we do with Members' Services.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Target till 1, yeah.

MR. CARDINAL: Bob, the evening meeting will include sup-

per, so we can't time meetings in between?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. CARDINAL: What about day meetings, like the 21st and 22nd? Are we going to go right through lunch?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, on the 22nd we'd have lunch.

MR. CARDINAL: That way we won't have time to book meetings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, don't. Let's not do that.

MS BARRETT: No, that's dangerous.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Again . . .

MR. DAY: Sorry, Mr. Chairman. The 22nd: that was starting at 10 a.m. on the Friday also?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Starting at 10 a.m.

Again, an informal discussion with members of the committee. I ask if we would have a concurrence with the idea that we would meet three days in one week and then skip the next week and then come back again, again allowing for other constituency work and time with your families and so on. So if that's agreeable, then the next week we'd be aiming at would be the first week of October. So, starting the week of the 2nd, could we try again the 4th, 5th, and 6th, the same process as the week before?

MS BARRETT: You could. That's when I go off to the CPA.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh.

MS BARRETT: No, let's not freak, because I don't think we're going to be in a decision-making mode at that point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, but when do you leave?

MS BARRETT: I show the 6th. I could be wrong but . . .

MRS. BLACK: That same week we have the heritage trust fund, I believe.

MR. CARDINAL: Yeah, on the 5th.

MRS. BLACK: The 4th and 5th.

MR. CARDINAL: All day. No, just the 4th.

MS BARRETT: Do you want to go to the early part of the week instead for that week?

MRS. BLACK: Monday and Tuesday?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah, would Monday and Tuesday be better?

MS BARRETT: I can do that.

MR. SIGURDSON: I'm in Ottawa on both days.

MR. DAY: I'd be out. I have a function those two days too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, let's again . . . Two of you are on heritage fund?

MR. CARDINAL: I am, yeah, but I only show one day that I'm tied up, on the 5th.

MRS. BLACK: Aren't you on the fund?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pam, are you on heritage fund?

MS BARRETT: No. Much as I tried to get on it, I'm not on it. I'm going to remember what you told me today, Pat.

MR. CARDINAL: I'm on just the 5th all day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All day, the 5th?

MR. CARDINAL: Yeah. You show two days, eh?

MRS. BLACK: Yeah. I have marked the 4th and 5th.

MR. CARDINAL: I only have the 5th marked all day. But, you know, this is pretty important, so there are other members that . . .

MRS. BLACK: Well, I think that's just a tentative anyway, so if we do this, then . . .

MS BARRETT: Tom, how are you on the 4th and 5th? Are you back?

MR. SIGURDSON: I'm fine on the 5th, but I don't get back until 9:30 on the 4th.

MRS. BLACK: You can come late.

MR. SIGURDSON: Very late.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, there may be a specific item at heritage fund someone wants to get back to.

MR. CARDINAL: We'll try to move that date, if it's possible, to a different date.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS BARRETT: Although it doesn't sort of flow with the principle of what Bob was suggesting, we could always meet the week after our first meetings. Now, I don't know, maybe not. Maybe a lot of paperwork's going to be generated, eh? What do you think?

MR. PRITCHARD: It could be from the first one. But I was thinking on the October 4, 5, and 6 that there's only one of you, I think, who can't be here on the 4th and two who can't be here on the 5th and everybody can be here on the 6th.

MR. CARDINAL: No, the 6th is also 10 to 12 noon for

heritage.

MR. PRITCHARD: Oh, the 6th is also . . .

MS BARRETT: And I'm gone on the 6th.

MR. PRITCHARD: And you're gone on the 6th. Okay. So that would be three away on the 6th.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, what about backing up to the week of October 25 to 29?

MS BARRETT: That's what I was thinking, and maybe doing the last two and a half days of the week.

MR. CARDINAL: September?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

MS BARRETT: You can't?

AN HON. MEMBER: No, I can't. I'll be in Montreal.

MS BARRETT: How come you go all over the place? Do you go on holidays?

MRS. BLACK: The 26th, 27th, and 28th is heritage.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's heritage fund too?

MRS. BLACK: Yeah.

MR. CARDINAL: What?

MRS. BLACK: The 26th, 27th, and 28th.

MR. CARDINAL: Uh huh.

MRS. BLACK: But the following week, October 9, 10, 11, and 12 . . .

MS BARRETT: Well, I don't mind operating on the principle, especially at the early stages, that if one person can't make it, that's okay with me because it's going to happen to me in October. I'll be away for a couple of weeks, so I know I'll have to miss a meeting.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What about the rest of you in the week of October 9?

MR. DAY: That one's no good for me, Mr. Chairman. I think what we'll find once we move into November and the new year is freer dates. We've already got a bunch of dates booked in for . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm sure glad we're having this meeting early so that we can book out our time.

MS BARRETT: So am I.

MR. DAY: That's right.

MR. CARDINAL: We've got to book it; otherwise, we'll never do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, I know.

MR. CARDINAL: If we get a week or two or . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, the week of the 9th to the 13th is not good for Stock; it's not good for Pam.

MS BARRETT: Really, the first three weeks are shot for me.

MR. DAY: Mr. Chairman, just as a suggestion. It may not have any merit in wanting to maintain the integrity of a full discussion unit, but is it possible in these types of situations or is it ever done where if it's a vote that's holding up moving on, a conference call can be done for that purpose? Is that ever . . . Or do you try and stay away from it on this type of a committee?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't think that's going to happen to us at the early stages. What we're doing is putting things together, and that's where it's nice to have everyone's input.

MRS. BLACK: Well, Mr. Chairman, why don't we see if Mike and I can change the October 4, 5, and 6 area, because I think that again is something that's a little flexible at this point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS BARRETT: You know, I agree. I think that's a good idea. It gets us meeting sooner, and it's no problem that I'll be away on the 6th, you know. I can live with that. You can live with that, right, Tom?

MR. CARDINAL: I think we should.

MRS. BLACK: Why don't we see if we can do it.

MR. CARDINAL: Well, we'll just say we're not going to be here. This is important; we need to go to this. That's all there is to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, 4th, 5th, and 6th and the same time lines. The 4th we start at 4 o'clock.

MS BARRETT: Yup.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And on the 5th we start at 10 a.m.

MR. DAY: We're in October?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're in October. And on Friday the 6th we start at 10 a.m.

MR. CARDINAL: Now, Fridays. Just a clarification. How late do you run on Fridays?

MR. CHAIRMAN: One o'clock.

MR. CARDINAL: One o'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. Book yourself till 1, and we may get out early.

MR. CARDINAL: From 10 till 1; okay.

MR. BRUSEKER: And Thursdays we'll just leave it open-ended?

MS BARRETT: Yeah, it's nice to try targeting like 4 o'clock, because you start going out of your mind. But sometimes, you know, if things are going well, it's worth giving an extra half hour or 45 minutes. The one I feel sorry for is Stockwell leaving cabinet and coming right directly into Electoral Boundaries. Fun, fun.

MR. CARDINAL: I don't feel sorry for him.

MS BARRETT: You don't. All right, then, I withdraw that.

MR. DAY: There's no mercy in our caucus.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, the week October of 16 to 20. You're still away?

MS BARRETT: Yes. So is Tom. Tom's away for the second part of that week.

MRS. BLACK: We have the 17th, 18th, and 19th.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm going to get after that Jack Ady. He's on the . . .

MR. CARDINAL: No. The 11th and 12th. That's a tour, though, isn't it?

MR. DAY: The 18th, 19th, and 17th.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What about the early part of the week: Monday and Tuesday, the 16th and 17th?

MR. DAY: I could do that.

MS BARRETT: I can't be here, but that's fine.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Can everybody else be here Monday and Tuesday? Well, let's grab those two days.

MR. DAY: What time on Monday, Mr. Chairman?

MRS. BLACK: Ten?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, no. The Monday, remember, we start in the afternoon, about 1 o'clock.

MR. CARDINAL: Okay, so that's the 16th at what time?

MRS. BLACK: One until whenever.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So 1 o'clock on Monday, and keep the evening free?

MS BARRETT: That's a start.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And Tuesday all day and keep the evening free?

MS BARRETT: Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Again, we're going to be into hearings, so we've got to save some time for it.

MS BARRETT: We've got a caucus meeting somewhere in southern Alberta, so I'm not sure Tom would be available on the evening of the 17th, would you?

MR. SIGURDSON: Well, I've got some conflicts that I'll tell you about later, so I'm not sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are we going to try the late afternoon of October 18, or just leave it at two days this time?

MRS. BLACK: Let's leave it at two.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two days.

MR. CARDINAL: What's the 17th then, the time?

MR. CHAIRMAN: At night. Ten o'clock.

MRS. BLACK: At 10 in the morning.

MS BARRETT: The 17th, daytime and possibly evening.

MR. CARDINAL: Okay; a.m., 10 p.m. That's good. No problem.

MR. DAY: That's just Monday and Tuesday and nothing on the Wednesday?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Then, jumping over to the week of October 30 through November 3, is there anything for the heritage fund that week?

MRS. BLACK: Yes, the 31st.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's all?

MRS. BLACK: I believe the 1st, possibly.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can we try back to our Monday afternoon, all day Thursday, and Friday morning?

MR. CARDINAL: Heritage Savings Trust Fund is the 1st, 2nd, 7th, and 8th.

MR. DAY: Which number?

MR. CHAIRMAN: On November 1 at 4 p.m., all day Thursday the 2nd, and half a day on Friday the 3rd.

MS BARRETT: Is that agreed?

HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MS BARRETT: Before I put it into my book, I want to make sure. It's fine with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Starting at 10 a.m. both Thursday and Friday.

MRS. BLACK: What day again, please, Mr. Chairman?

MR. CHAIRMAN: November 1, 2, and 3.

MR. BRUSEKER: So Wednesday at 4 p.m. and then 10 and 10.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. CARDINAL: That's again Heritage Savings Trust Fund, those two days.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Which two days?

MR. CARDINAL: The 1st and 2nd and also the 7th and 8th, tentatively booked.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The week of November 13.

MS BARRETT: It's fine with me. No, where are we on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd? It's on or off?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah, it's on.

MR. CARDINAL: Well, some of us will have to miss, you know. We're going to have to attend some of those other meetings.

MS BARRETT: Well, maybe if we all sort of take turns at missing one of these meetings or missing one of something else.

MR. CARDINAL: So the 1st is 4 p.m.?

MS BARRETT: Uh huh.

MR. CARDINAL: Okay. The 2nd is 10 a.m. until p.m.?

MS BARRETT: Yes.

MR. CARDINAL: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What I'm going to do, probably not tomorrow but soon, I'll get Gloria -- no, I'll get Bob not Gloria . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: Send out a confirmation.

MR. PRITCHARD: We'll make up a schedule and send it out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And Bob will say to Karen, "Karen . . ."

MS BARRETT: Yeah, right.

MR. CARDINAL: We're going try and change those meetings again, those two days, the 1st and 2nd?

MRS. BLACK: Well, we're going to have to get something firmed up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wednesday, November 15?

MS BARRETT: Fine with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wednesday afternoon at 4 p.m.? Thursday the 16th and Friday the 17th until 1 p.m.?

MR. CARDINAL: Do you want to start off again -- the days?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Wednesday the 15th at 4 p.m.; Thursday the 16th, all day, starting at 10 a.m.; and Friday the 17th from 10 to 1.

MR. CARDINAL: Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: When are they?

MR. CARDINAL: They have their conference that week.

MS BARRETT: The 22nd; that's the week of the 22nd. And the MLA lunch is on the 23rd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. You know, what I was hoping we could do, then, if we do the week of November 27, if we can plug in our Wednesday, Thursday, Friday again.

MS BARRETT: Uh uh. Go the early part. We've got a federal leadership convention, and that's just critical to every one of us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Oh, okay. I understand.

MS BARRETT: It starts on the 30th in Winnipeg.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, a few of you; not every one of us.

MS BARRETT: No, every one of us New Democrats. It's very important.

MRS. BLACK: Who are we supporting?

MS BARRETT: Who are we supporting? Thisly's supporting Audrey McLaughlin, and I don't know what thatly is supporting.

MR. CARDINAL: It's critical.

MR. SIGURDSON: Thisly doesn't know what he's doing either.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When do we go to Ottawa? On what date?

MS BARRETT: What are you talking about going to Ottawa for?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, where's your convention? That's Winnipeg.

MS BARRETT: Ah, that's in Winnipeg.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, when do you go to Winnipeg?

MS BARRETT: When do we go to Winnipeg? Probably the night of the 29th, and if we come back . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, can we do a two-day, then, on the 27th and 28th?

MS BARRETT: Oh yeah. That'd be fine with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, starting at 1 on the Monday.

MR. DAY: Mr. Chairman, just for your information, the 28th, I believe, is the ASTA luncheon in Calgary.

MR. BRUSEKER: It is, yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: In Calgary? Maybe we should have these down there in Calgary.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sure.

MS BARRETT: Well, I would suggest that we should meet in Calgary on the 27th as well.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, that's right. Can't we just book them out for Calgary?

MR. CARDINAL: The 27th at 4 p.m.?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Four p.m., or make it earlier.

MR. BRUSEKER: You said 1 p.m., didn't you?

MR. CHAIRMAN: One p.m.; it's only 4 p.m. on a Wednesday to accommodate Stock. Okay? If we start a meeting on a Monday, we start it at 1 o'clock.

MR. CARDINAL: The 28th?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The 28th is at 10.

MR. DAY: And the 27th is at 1.

MRS. BLACK: And we can break for the luncheon?

MR. CHAIRMAN: And we'll break for the luncheon. So we're in Calgary again.
Now, the week of December 11.

MRS. BLACK: Oh, now let's not get carried away; it's getting too close to Christmas.

MR. CARDINAL: It's time to do it, do all of it; otherwise we'll never get it done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I was going to suggest that we stop on Thursday the 14th, not plan any meetings from that date through the Christmas period.

MS BARRETT: Good; I'm going to get a holiday after all.

MR. SIGURDSON: The only problem with the 13th and the 14th is that we have caucus in Calgary.

MS BARRETT: That's right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, what if we do it on Monday and Tuesday again?

MRS. BLACK: Well, let's hold it in Calgary.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On the 11th and 12th?

MS BARRETT: Sure.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can do it in Calgary again, or we're going to need more time. Okay?

MR. SIGURDSON: It's fine with me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sure.

MS BARRETT: So it's 1 p.m. on Monday the 11th.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. And 10 on Tuesday the 12th, and hold your evenings open.

MR. BRUSEKER: At 10 a.m. on Tuesday the 12th, did you say, Bob?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ten on the 12th. Then the suggestion was that we not meet again through Christmas.

MS BARRETT: Right on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, who plans a winter holiday?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: I do.

MR. CARDINAL: I will this year, too, the way things look.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much of January is left, if any?

MRS. BLACK: Zero.

MR. DAY: Are we meeting in Florida?

MR. BRUSEKER: We all can go to Hawaii, Stock. I don't know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can we just quickly get an idea, going around. When are you going?

MS BARRETT: I'll be back by early January.

MR. SIGURDSON: I'm gone the last two weeks of January.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Into February at all?

MR. SIGURDSON: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Pat.

MRS. BLACK: Well, since I'm not going to go now in November . . .

MS BARRETT: It's okay, dollink, neither am I.

MRS. BLACK: I'm planning on the middle of December to the middle of January.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. That's fine.

MR. BRUSEKER: I'd like to be gone the last couple of weeks of January.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Mike.

MR. CARDINAL: Around Christmas and into January.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. DAY: Mine will probably be in the first couple of weeks, Mr. Chairman, of January.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And our family plans it the last part of January. So I didn't hear anybody go into February. So are we safe in the month of February?

MS BARRETT: Oh yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So we can reactivate ourselves in February, like the very first part of February?

MS BARRETT: Why not even the last week of January, the 29th and 30th?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, because I'm gone that week.

MS BARRETT: Oh, you're gone that week. What about that middle week of January, the 15th to 19th?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, others are gone.

MS BARRETT: Are you sure? I kept hearing . . . [interjections] Oh, okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think we're going to have to wait until the very first part of February.

MS BARRETT: Okay. Well, I think that we should book intensively, because my speculation . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: What are we doing?

MS BARRETT: Well -- no, no. For that part of it book intensively for the first couple of weeks, because if all goes as per House leaders agreed, we'll be sitting the third week of February.

MR. CARDINAL: That's what I figured. Yeah.

MS BARRETT: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That early, eh?

MS BARRETT: Yeah. That's what we're targeting for. So I'd certainly argue that we book up heavily for the first part of

February and have at it.

MR. BRUSEKER: How many meetings are we going to need to have, all told? Do you have any idea?

MS BARRETT: Five million.

MR. BRUSEKER: Well, yeah; I gathered that. But I'm just wondering. Have you looked at when this was last done and how many meetings were needed? Just sort of to give us an idea.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, this hasn't been done before. Our process is unique. We're going to have to bring in some legal expertise to give us the implications of the Charter of Rights in the B.C. case. We need to look at the historical overview in Alberta and in other parts of Canada, and we've got some top-notch political science professors who can do that.

We need to make sure that before we begin the hearing process we're very comfortable as a committee of seven with the background to it. We also need to give time, through our advertisements and however we communicate, to groups and individuals who may wish to be heard by our committee, that they have an opportunity to prepare and come forward. So that's why I was trying to fill up. I know we're filling up a lot of space now, and we don't yet have an agenda to fit into those spots, but . . .

MS BARRETT: It'll happen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: . . . it'll happen.

MS BARRETT: Yes. It'll crowd us in fact.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm assuming that some of our daytime space can be used by hearing groups, and we're trying to be available and accessible. Okay?

Did you have a comment, Tom?

MR. SIGURDSON: So without booking any time in February tonight, we're just going to heavily book February, and you'll be able send it out to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're still on the basis of three days every two weeks.

MS BARRETT: To tell you the truth, I don't think it's going to work at that point. I would recommend doing something like booking the week the 5th to the 9th inclusive.

MR. CARDINAL: Of February?

MS BARRETT: Yeah.

MR. CARDINAL: Or else just doing . . .

MS BARRETT: Now, if I'm wrong, then we get to throw up our hands in joy and take some time off.

MR. CARDINAL: Well, we just don't book anything. We don't book anything for February other than this. Just leave it open.

MS BARRETT: Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The only word of caution I've got is that albeit this is a very important committee, we've all got other important duties, too, and as you're on the countdown for a session . . . For instance, I normally book out about 10 working days for my visits around the constituency, because I find that when I'm in here I don't see my constituents that often.

MRS. BLACK: Ditto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So the way I try to compensate for that is by really blanketing the constituency just before a spring session. If I were to say, "Sorry, folks, I'm not doing that this year because I'm busy in Edmonton," they can give me a message four years hence too.

MR. CARDINAL: Tell you to go to Edmonton.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. "We'll let you move there permanently."

MR. PRITCHARD: You might appreciate the break from this kind of work too; rather than doing it five days in a row or six days in a row or something, to have the breaks in between so you can go away and think about what you've heard in your hearings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us, when we come back in our next meeting, work on February and see what we can come back with.

MS BARRETT: So what are you saying then?

MR. CHAIRMAN: We're not making any formal bookings just yet.

MS BARRETT: We're just trying not to take anything else.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

MS BARRETT: Okay.

MR. SIGURDSON: Having worked in Spirit River-Fairview and knowing what the time problems are and the constituency travel, would it be at all helpful at some point in February to have a meeting in your constituency and perhaps a meeting in Mike's constituency? Or is that going to make something of a problem?

MRS. BLACK: You shouldn't go to Mike's in February.

MR. CARDINAL: Oh, it's not too bad. We should go there when it's coldest. We'll go to Conklin when it's 20 below.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, what I was hoping we could do is ensure that . . . Well, obviously we'll be Calgary and Edmonton as a base, but we're going to be in Red Deer sometime. When we have to be -- we're going to hold some hearings in your part of the province; why not use Athabasca as our base? And when you're in the south -- I'd earlier mentioned Lethbridge and Medicine Hat, but if we decided to go halfway between the two,

we'd be in Taber.

MS BARRETT: What a coincidence. Ha, ha, ha.

MR. SIGURDSON: If you have the meeting scheduled for, you know, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday in Taber or Milk River or some of those other exciting metropolises, then it would allow you to have two days before the meeting.

MR. CARDINAL: Bob, I suggest you book a chopper when you have a meeting, to have a visual look of the area a person has to cover. It'd give you a good idea of some of the situations. It's the only way you can get to them; otherwise you can't, you know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Anything else on scheduling tonight? So those of you who are on the heritage fund are going to -- I really think you should talk to the chairman fairly soon on your prioritization; get that straightened out.

MR. CARDINAL: It's no problem. We'll do that tomorrow morning.

MR. BRUSEKER: Just February 9 and 10 we're having a policy convention. February 9 is a Friday. So I just thought I'd mention that right now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MR. BRUSEKER: The rest of that week is open.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The 9th and 10th. Okay.

MR. BRUSEKER: So you're looking at Monday the 19th, or so?

MS BARRETT: We didn't actually pull out the calendar. Probably the 21st or 22nd the House will start.

MR. BRUSEKER: It's usually a Tuesday?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'd say a Thursday, oftener.

MS BARRETT: Probably the 22nd. I can't see it happening the 15th.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Well, the other advantage we've got is that we need some time to write up what we're doing, and we can squeeze part of that out while we're in here, because our report is to be in during the sitting. It doesn't say at the beginning of it or the middle or the end. It says "during."

MS BARRETT: So if we don't have it done reasonably early, I can tell you what you're going to be doing during the Easter break again.

AN HON. MEMBER: That's right. Or a Saturday and Sunday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, not in the Easter break.

MRS. BLACK: The Easter break -- forget it.

MR. SIGURDSON: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to sit during the Easter break either. But with the responsibilities that have been assigned to the committee, I'm just wondering if -- maybe some guidance from Pam: is there any way we can go back to the Government House Leader and propose that session be postponed or pushed ahead?

MS BARRETT: Sure. There's always that possibility, but it's something I'd like to wait on doing. I'd like to see progress and have a look at it at Christmastime. I mean, it's hard getting House leaders to agree on anything, and we do have that agreement in principle, so -- although we didn't look at the calendar, and that included, I think, deputy government House leaders as well. Probably it would start on the 22nd. So it's not quite as tight.

MR. SIGURDSON: Maybe for the first time in Alberta legislative history we'll be getting into pairing.

MS BARRETT: We'll be what?

MR. SIGURDSON: Getting into pairing.

MS BARRETT: Yes. Anyway, I'd rather not deal with that.

MR. CARDINAL: After three or four meetings we'll have a better idea how we're doing in the committee here.

MS BARRETT: Yeah.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Anything else on the scheduling tonight?

MS BARRETT: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other matters you wish to discuss tonight.

MR. BRUSEKER: I had a suggestion just in terms of educating ourselves about the constituencies. I know that in the past I've seen a book called the *Atlas of Alberta*, and I'm wondering if it might not be a worthwhile thing to have the most recent copies of the *Atlas of Alberta*, because it's extremely detailed and has a lot of information. It might be useful for the committee to have copies of that available, if there's recent printings of it that show -- particularly if they reflect a recent census-taking.

MR. DAY: That'd be the key thing: an atlas with the demographics on it.

MR. BRUSEKER: Exactly. But as I recall, seeing that it included that and it included racial, religious backgrounds, and a whole variety of information, it might be a useful tool for us to have at our disposal. It's a fairly nice-sized pocketbook. It's about like this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. We will want, as we proceed, to get advice from other experts on how other jurisdictions deal with representation. I know there are some very unique approaches used in some jurisdictions to obtain a balance.

MR. CARDINAL: That information's available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, it's tapping it. It's available to people who have the knowledge.

MR. PRITCHARD: Is there any other background that anybody wants -- I don't know what you have -- like electoral Acts or electoral boundary Acts?

MS BARRETT: I'll tell you what would be handy: the two B.C. decisions.

MR. CARDINAL: I have that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah.

MS BARRETT: Okay.

MR. PRITCHARD: Yeah, you'll have to compare it.

MR. CARDINAL: I have Alberta electoral divisions, British Columbia Supreme Court rulings, the report of the royal commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yeah. We'll go into those in quite some detail, Pam. I want to make sure everybody's here when we do that.

MS BARRETT: Yeah. No, I'm just talking about reading material, preparation to this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It's really imperative that we find times when everyone will be present when we're going to go through some of that detailed information or have someone in speaking to us, leading us through it. Okay?

Any other business for tonight? Tom?

MR. SIGURDSON: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mike?

MR. CARDINAL: No.

MR. DAY: I'll move to adjourn.

MS BARRETT: Yes, please.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. All in favour? Thank you very much.

MR. DAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[The committee adjourned at 6:45 p.m.]

